Case Study Analysis

Angela Orth

Sister Angela Cresswell, CSFN,PhD

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**Presenting the Facts**

Case study twelve is about a Carol Goodman who is a dominant presence in her class. Carol’s teacher is Mrs. Gizzard who has been teaching for more than twenty years at Brady Junior Senior High School. Carol had many followers and many people who did not follow. Carol became class president her freshman year so many people liked Carol. One of Carol’s classmates is Mary Blaine she did fit in with the rest of the crowd she was overweight and suffered from acne. Carol’s philosophy for class president was “the ends justify the means”. Mrs. Gizzard has never met a girl like Carol who had such control over her class mates. Mrs. Gizzard saw that Carol had good qualities of a leader but she also saw Carol could be kind of a bully. Mrs. Gizzard saw how Carol treated her one class mate Mary. Carol would make fun of Mary for being overweight and having acne. A confrontation happen in class when Mary was speaking to Carol about feminism it ends in Mary being hated by all of her classmates. Mary went to Mrs. Gizzard to see if she could help Mary and her situation with her classmates; calming Mary down Mrs. Gizzard reassured Mary that she would look into the situation with Carol. Mrs. Gizzard did some research and found out that the only reason why so many people followed Carol was because they were scared of what would happen if they did not. Understanding that the students felt this way towards Carol; Mrs. Gizzard went to the guidance counselor to see if there were any files about Carol and her behavior. She found out that Carol had been a bully before knowing this information Mrs. Gizzard decide that she wanted to talk with Carol to see is she could understand why she acts the way she does. When Mrs. Gizzard and Carol sat down for their talk and the topic of Mary was brought up Carol immediately got defensive saying Mary is a liar and everyone know she is. Carol went on say that Mrs. Gizzard needs to mind her own business and leave her alone or she would tell her mom and the principal that Mrs. Gizzard was picking on her for no reason. Mrs. Gizzard is unsure what she should do next to stop Carol from picking on Mary and other class mates. Carol does not want to change and doesn’t see anything wrong with her actions and the way she treats her classmates.

**Taking Action**

Carol a student in my class if very dominant but picks on this one girl named Mary. It was brought to my attention that Carol has been picking on Mary a lot and hurting her feelings. When I did research I found out that a lot of the classmates are afraid of Carol so they just follow her so Carol does not pick on them. I also found out that this is not the first time Carol has been a leader to her classmates. Carol has a whole file on how she manipulates her classmates and is a bully. When I talk to Carol she was very defensive to the topic of bullying and tried to bully me by saying that she would tell her mother and the principal that I was picking on her for no reason. What needs to be done about Carol and her bullying problem is that she needs to comprehend that she needs to treat people the way she wants to be treated. Carol being a tough student to talk to I think there more behind Carol than just her wanting to be a leader. I would like for Carol to sit down with a counselor or with me to just talk and see why she does what she does.

**Quick-Recovery Actions**

Quick-Recovery actions for Carol would be to end her bullying right away. I would do this by telling carol that she needs to stop this bullying and controlling with her classmates right away and if she does not then further consequences will be taken. I would let her know that telling her mother and principal that I am picking on her for no reason will only get her in trouble because they will have to find out about her picking on Mary. I will bring Mary into our talk and let them both know the deal if Carol picks on Mary even one time consequences will be made. I would have them both agree to try and get along. This would deal with the assertive discipline model I would take over the situation but making the rules and having consequences if the rules of the agreement are broken. I would use this model because I feel Carol needs to know that she is the student and I am the teacher and she cannot boss people around whenever she feels like it. This model will show Carol that she knows that there will be consequences if she does not change her attitude towards me and her classmates. I think this would work because it allows Carol to take ownership of her actions if she does not stop bullying it gives her responsibility to her actions as well. This model and plan could back fire if Carol does not care of the consequences and just keeps bullying or if she tells her mother and her mother believes her daughter and brings it up to the school and principal and I will have to explain what is going on in my classroom. I would have to explain and having a meeting about Carol and Mary’s situation with both parents and the principal. Which could be a good thing for everyone involved in this bully matter but it would just not be needed. I would give this action about two weeks to see improvement in Carol attitude and actions.

**Next-Step Actions**

**Long –Term Solution**

A Long-Term Solution for Carol would be to just give positive feedback as much as I could to keep everyone in the situation happy and motivate to be self disciplined and be a good character. I would talk to Mary alone and just reinsure that everything will work out for the best and that I will work with Carol and how she treats others. I would talk to the class as a whole about setting good example and what it means to have self discipline throughout life. I would do this lesson as a whole group so that Carol or Mary do not have fingers pointed at them. I also think doing a lesson on being a good character is a great lesson to teach and to talk about within the classroom. It allows all the students to think about how they all act and treat others and how they would want to be treated. I feel this could bring the classroom closer together because everyone will be able to talk about how they feel on the topic of bullying. This lesson would tie in with the positive action model by Carol Gerber Allred. This action is all about the individual. Individuals feel good about themselves when they perform a positive action. During my lesson I would have the students for homework they would have to perform one positive action towards another classmate that they are not close friends with. They would write a little journal article on how it made them feel as a person and how they think they made that person feel. This long-term solution is not just focusing on Carol and her bullying issues it’s bring the issue to the surface as a whole class and allowing for self evaluation. I think this solution would work out great because I believe to change a person that person needs to realize that they need to change themselves. Knowing that Carol does not like to be brought aside and talk to because she get very defensive this solution allows self correction without having someone tell you that what your doing is not nice or not appropriate. This solution I believe will work the best because it will allow Carol to self evaluated herself and make the decision to change because she wants to not because she being told too. I would evaluate this by seeing the classmate perform their positive action and reading the journals. For Carol I would evaluate her by observation throughout the week to see once she experienced positive action if she would adapted to being positive and seeing that people will still be her friend because she nice not because they are all afraid of her. A weakness for this solution is that it might only last a few weeks then everyone will fall back into their bad habits.

**Reflection**

Studying this case study really allowed me to put myself in the teacher’s shoes and think about what I would do in this situation. I learned from this case study that I might get a student who thinks that they can run their classmates and teachers so they can be the leader and feel in charge. It allowed me to think in ways of a teacher and really lay out options for myself and the problem student. Having to think about the solutions was difficult because I had to think of all possible problems and think if it would really work. Writing an action plan was interesting because there are so many actions that I could do with this situation but I really had to think which solution would be effective enough to end the problem and change the student for the better. I found out that using positive action in a negative situation might be the best possible solution because it allows for that student or students to get the feeling of being positive or getting positive feedback that might open their eyes to see that being yelled at for their action is not the only thing that could happen when getting in trouble. I have always tried to look at everything in a positive way and I feel I will you this model a lot in my classroom. Analyzing Carol and her case study I can relate to my cheerleading team that I coach there is a little girl who has many friends but only for the fact that they do not want to be against her so they just follow her. I did not even look a situation I dealt with as me using positive action until this case study. Being able to practice finding solution for certain situation will really help me as a pre service teacher because it gives me a heads up on what might or may happen when I start my career as a teacher. I believe in positive action and being a good character so being able to use that model in this case study really allowed me to relate to this case study to my life.